

# CLOSE TO HOME

THE FIELD REGINA NORTHROP NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP NEWSLETTER

May/June 2015

## Festive 50th Neighborhood Celebration May 30

This year, Field Regina Northrop is commemorating 50 years as a neighborhood, and we are going to celebrate like never before. Our annual spring neighborhood parade and gathering will be replaced this year with an all-day extravaganza at McRae Park for neighbors and friends of all ages. Events kick off on the McRae field at 11 a.m. and continue throughout the day and into the night, closing with a special reception at Turtle Bread Company.

This celebration will, for the first time ever, feature a full beer garden from 2:30-5 p.m. Sponsored by Pepito's Restaurant and Adrian's Tavern, the beer garden will be located in the permanent broomball court at McRae Park and will be equipped with high-top tables, a stage for live music, and service from our sponsors so you can enjoy visiting with your neighbors. In addition, a half-dozen food trucks and food vendors will be on hand all day serving everything from fish and chips to dumplings to cupcakes. The list of vendors will keep growing, so make sure you visit [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org) for the full list of food options.

From 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the field stage, we have a program of family-friendly live music, dancers and spoken-word artists. The Aztec Dancers will be back this year, accompanied by several local jazz performances and the popular McRae Park Ballerinas with Miss Minneapolis *Continued on page 2*

### Fun for Everyone! Schedule

- **Family Fun in the Park**  
11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
- **Beer Garden**  
2:30 p.m.–5 p.m.  
Featuring musical guest White Tail Band
- **Turtle Bread Company Reception:** 6 p.m.–9 p.m.  
Featuring musical guest AKOUO

### Performances

- The McRae Park Ballerinas
- Field School Jazz Band
- Southwest High School Jazz Band
- Aztec Dancers
- Washburn High School Spoken-Word Actors
- Night Stones Youth Band
- Brooklyn Park Drum & Bugle Corps
- McRae Park Jazz Band
- Music Lab—Minneapolis Music School
- And **more** to be announced

### Family Fun

- Raffle to win a bike & other prizes
- Bouncy castle, pony rides, dunk tank, ring toss and more

### Food

- Pepper Philly
- Adrian's Tavern
- Dumpling
- Taxi Taco—**and many more!**

## Introducing our new neighborhood logo

by Chris Schommer, Chair,  
Communications Committee



The familiar green FRNNG logo that appears on our neighborhood entrance signs, website, social media, and mailings is very familiar to residents and has been in use for many years.

However, in many situations, this logo is no longer able to meet the needs of the neighborhood. It's singular vertical nature makes it difficult to use on the web and social media, as well as other more traditional placements such as return addresses labels. This winter, the FRNNG board of directors decided to explore new options for a logo that might provide more functionality as well as reflect the current, past, and future nature of the neighborhood.

We returned to Jen Nagorski, the designer whom we hired to redesign *Close to Home*. Jen provided us with several strong directions. During the design process, the team determined that the familiar three-leaf motif would need to be retired, opting instead for a single leaf intended to unite the three neighborhoods. The maple was chosen for its visual strength and because it reflects the large population of maple trees in the neighborhood. *Continued on page 3*

Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407 • 612-721-5424 • [frnng.org](http://frnng.org)

# Continued from page 1

50th-Anniversary Celebration May 30, continued from page 1

making a special appearance to introduce guests to our stage. In the park, there is more family fun with a children's play area complete with a bouncy castle, pony rides, a dunk tank, ring toss and other fun carnival games for kids.

A raffle to benefit FRNNG will feature prizes of a children's-size and adult-size bicycle from Nokomis Cycle. More raffle prizes will be available as we get closer to the event. In addition, representatives from dozens of local businesses and groups that will be providing free demonstrations include massage, a bike repair station, Sword Club demonstrations, dog tricks, and even showing off some backyard chickens!

The party will continue on into the evening with a private neighborhood reception at Turtle Bread Company. Due to limited seating, the first 100 neighbors to RSVP will obtain a free ticket. Please RSVP by May 15 by emailing [frnng@frnng.org](mailto:frnng@frnng.org), by calling the office at (612) 721-5424, or by contacting us on social media to indicate how many tickets you would like. To help celebrate our 50th anniversary, Turtle Bread will be giving attendees ages 55 and older a free glass of wine.



Aztec Dancers will again thrill the audience.



A bouncy castle, pony rides, dunk tank, ring toss, and other carnival games will be among the playful activities for young neighbors at the 50th-Anniversary Celebration of our neighborhood.

## Look Forward to Presentations, Groups and Events

- Zumba: Class demonstration
- The Music Lab: Musical performance
- Fit For Life: Free consultations and free fitness class
- Nokomis Cycle: Information on repairing your bike
- Minneapolis Police: K-9 Unit demonstration
- Minnehaha Animal Hospital: Dog tricks
- Minneapolis Fire: Explore a fire truck
- Backyard chickens demonstration
- FRNNG: Free neighborhood signs and information
- Southside Chiropractic: Free chair massage
- Jones Financial Group: Saving for college and retirement
- Wells Fargo: Banking and savings information
- Wings Financial: Information about youth accounts
- And **more** to be announced

There is so much going on this year that calling it the Annual Neighborhood Celebration just doesn't do it justice. This is a celebration of everything we love about Field Regina Northrop, together in one place, plus the 50 years of history and hard work put in by so many residents to make this the neighborhood we enjoy today.

The neighborhood group is still hard at work planning, so make sure you keep track of events by visiting our new website at [www.frnng.org](http://www.frnng.org) or join us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest information about vendors, times and any new surprises. ❖

## 50 Active Years in FRNNG with Gerry Sell

by Stearline Rucker  
Currently the chair of the education committee, Gerry Sell has held many positions in the neighborhood association for decades. She was a founding member of FRNNG in 1965, chair of the education committee, Field community representative, secretary, editor for the newsletter, and most important: historian for the neighborhood.

Gerry has been a member of the League of Women Voters for more than 50 years. As a devoted wife, mother and volunteer, Gerry and other residents organized and lobbied to have a state bill passed to allow community banking in Minneapolis. Those efforts led to the "birth" of the first neighborhood bank in Minneapolis – right on the corner of 48th and Chicago.

*Continued on page 4*

# From the president

On May 30, we are going to be celebrating 50 years of FRN as an organization. As I look back to when I first moved into this community, I realize that I've been living in FRN for over thirty 30 years now! As I reminisce, I see how our community has grown over time. One of the biggest changes that has occurred since I moved here has been the commercial development around 48th Street and Chicago Avenue, including the most recent Health Partners Nokomis Clinic. We've got business growth, too, along Bloomington Avenue and 46th Street and also at 47th Street and Cedar Avenue. All these businesses have added greatly to the vitality and desirability of our neighborhood.

There are so many things that make our community a great place to live. We have places where we can gather with our friends to have coffee and talk. We have a park and center, where the community can come together and parents can bring their kids to play. There is a place where parents can bring their kids for play dates and have a cup of coffee. We have places to experience live entertainment and dinner and a movie. We have a variety of restaurants in our neighborhood and we



Photo courtesy Willie Bridges

Willie Bridges, president of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group.

have one of the best ice cream parlors in the neighborhood. If you want a cold beer, we have a places for that also.

The really nice mix of shops and services here are not only convenient for us in the neighborhood, but have also contributed to making this area a shopping destination! We have salons, places for massage, places to meet a personal trainer, as well as to learn martial arts. Were you aware that we have a place where you can learn fencing? We have a place that looks after our kids when they need a safe place to be. We even have a place that looks after our pets when they are sick or they need a shot. There's truly something for everyone here.

I continue to hear people talk about our community—from within and outside—who say that we have a great community here in FRN. People who have lived in our neighborhood fifty years or more have said what a great place this is in which to live, and that all the changes over the years have been for the good of the whole.

I hope to see you at our May 30th 50th Anniversary Celebration. We want to salute and celebrate **you**, FRN! As always, be safe, look out for each other, and don't forget to say "Hello" to your neighbors, and welcome those that are new to the neighborhood. ❖

Introducing our new neighborhood logo, *continued from page 1*

**FIELD  
REGINA  
NORTHROP**  
*Neighborhood Group*



To help create a better sense of place, we decided to incorporate the literal map of

the three neighborhoods into the logo by drawing the borders of 35W, Minnehaha Creek, Cedar Avenue, and 42nd Street. Each neighborhood is highlighted by a unique color.

To tie FRN to the larger Nokomis area and to further define the neighborhood's place in the city, we also included the distinctive Minnehaha Creek outline at the bottom of the logo. This gives some natural motion to the logo's shape and highlights our neighborhood's status as being located fully in the Minnehaha Watershed District.

For improved legibility, we have moved away from the previous serif-style font to a san-serif condensed font for our name.

The phrase "Neighborhood Group" will appear in a script font to reflect the flowing creek from the logo. This logo is intended to serve both as the logo for Field Regina Northrop as a neighborhood and the Neighborhood Group, so the text can be changed to fit the need.

We hope to start using the new logo immediately, starting by replacing our long-faded neighborhood entrance signs as well as our website and social media accounts. As new items come up for promotion or replacement, we hope that this new logo will prove a flexible and friendly icon for our neighborhood for years to come. ❖

# Neighbor profile & new internet capabilities

Celebrating FRN Historian, Gerry Sell, *continued from page 1*

## More about Gerry Sell

by Marie Sell

What makes a neighborhood so special? Certainly the families who live there and



Gerry Sell holding one of her grandchildren.

the businesses that serve the community. Certainly the schools, parks, landscaping, and community events. But these did not just appear. Instead, ideas had to be cultivated and efforts nurtured by neighborhood advocates who volunteered their time to create and maintain these neighborhood assets. My mom, Gerry, has had a stellar career as a neighborhood advocate and community activist. She has spent countless hours at committee meetings – as a committee member, a committee chair, or concerned resident – working to make positive changes in the neighborhood. She has never hesitated to pick up the phone and call the appropriate city office to get information about city code to help guide neighborhood projects, or to write letters to governing officials

asking them to consider the neighborhood when creating policy.

The neighborhood is the vibrant community it is today, in part due to Gerry's long-time involvement. Through her active involvement she has not only served the neighborhood well, Gerry has also served as a role model of how to create change. Often when I am attending my own neighborhood association meetings in Memphis, I think about how Gerry might go about working on the issues we are discussing and I know that I am on the right track for making a difference in the neighborhood.

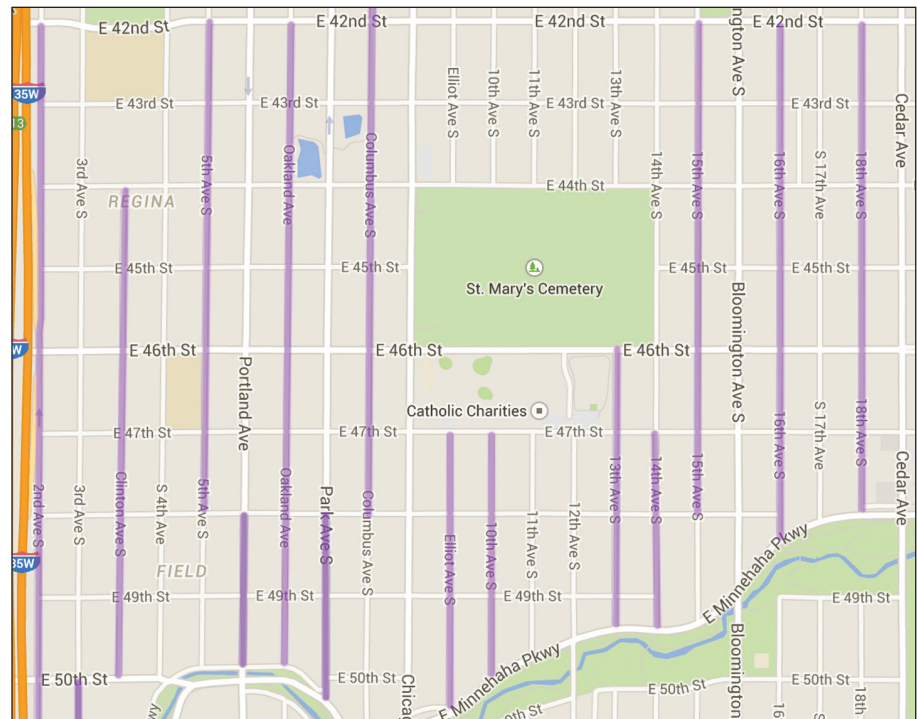
*This story has been edited for length. Please go to [www.frnmg.org/Gerry\\_Sell](http://www.frnmg.org/Gerry_Sell) to learn more about Gerry Sell.*

## USI Fiber expands to a portion of FRN

US Internet (USI) has chosen parts of the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood as one of the next areas in Minneapolis to receive fiber-optic internet connections in 2015. The map to the right highlights in purple the streets that are currently planned to receive fiber connections between May and October. The areas not highlighted will receive high-speed internet options available at a later date.

Direct fiber-optic internet connections will allow users to access home internet speeds ranging from 25 Megabits to 1 gigabit (1,000 megabits) of service for both download and upload speeds. Service for the fastest speeds will cost \$65 per month in 2015, with lower prices available for less bandwidth. Those seeking even faster internet (and who are willing to pay for it), a 10-gigabit service is also available, which, according to USI, is the fastest home internet service available in the country!

A typical city block has a 2' x 3' handhole in the boulevard, midblock, on both sides of the street with a conduit connecting the two. These points connect block to block typically on only the west side of the



street. In cases where the blocks connect on the east side, USI will place one or two additional handholes on the north or south ends of those blocks. From the center handhole of each block, the crews use horizontal boring to run a 1" pipe to each customer's home once they subscribe.

USI Wireless will join CenturyLink and Comcast as the main wired internet access options for FRN. US Internet's subsidiary, USI Wireless, also operates wireless internet access for the City of Minneapolis. For more information, please visit: <http://fiber.usinternet.com> ❖

## About our environment

# Gardening with Native Plants for Beautiful, Healthy Spaces

by Carrie Shidla

Landscaping and gardening with native plants is increasingly popular in Minnesota, and for good reason. "Native" plants have been growing in our region for thousands of years – they are from here, they belong here, and they understand how to grow and thrive here. They also provide some vital services in protecting our community.

### Protecting our water

Because they are so well adapted, native plants have a huge impact on water quality. According to Andrew Novak, a landscape designer with Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb, "The root mass of native plants is immense and facilitates the filtration of rain water, which otherwise travels directly into our water bodies, causing pollution."

### Habitat for wildlife

As native plants have evolved and adapted, so too has the wildlife. Native plants are the preferred food source and nesting habitat for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds, which have been suffering from catastrophic decline due to habitat loss. Sustainable landscapes offer these populations resiliency against climate changes.

### Natural beauty

Not only are native plants beautiful, but because they have already adapted to our climate and soil, they are hardy. Once these plants have been established, they thrive – rarely needing extra care such as watering, mulching, or protection from cold or pests.

This summer, as you tackle any landscaping or gardening projects, consider being intentional about choosing

native plants. It is a simple way to add beauty to your yard while helping the environment. ❖

### Native Plants

*When you head to the garden store this spring and summer, keep your eyes open for some of these native plants.*

**Milkweed.** There are several varieties – such as common, butterfly, poke, and swamp. This plant provides valuable habitat for pollinators, especially Monarch butterflies.

**Coneflower.** Consider purple, orange, and prairie. These lovely flowers provide valuable habitat for butterflies, are self seeding, and thrive on neglect.

**Aster.** Look for big-leaved or heart-leaved.

**Wild Columbine.** Lovely flowers for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

**Wild Bergamot.** Attracts bees and butterflies.

**Blazing Star.** Varieties such as button, meadow, and prairie. These spiky pink flowers provide habitat to many pollinators.

There are many, many more. To find the right plants for your space, ask at your garden center – and do some research. Some good places to start include:

[www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org)  
[www.bluthumb.org](http://www.bluthumb.org)  
[www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu)

## Close to Home

*Close to Home* is the official publication of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group (FRNNG) and is published six times per year by the FRNNG Communications Committee.

### Editors

Sue Filbin, Chris Schommer, and Carrie Shidla

### Layout

Smiling Dog Design

### Contributors

Council member Elizabeth Glidden, Willie Bridges, Sue Filbin, Stearline Rucker, Marie Sell, Carrie Shidla, Chris Schommer, & Adam Webster

Articles, photos, and announcements are welcome. Please email: [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org)

or call 612-721-5424

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### 2015 FRNNG Board

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Greening: Ted Moe

Housing: Ian Campbell & Nate Lansing

Parks: Ryan Holweger

**Programs: Open**

## In our neighborhood

**Popular South Minneapolis Race Returns July 19**

# Southside Sprint Bike Race Named MN State Championship

by Jason Lardy

The 2015 Southside Sprint Bike Race will crown the MN State Criterium Champions as the race celebrates its fifth running through the streets of south Minneapolis on Sunday, July 19. The Southside Sprint, the largest amateur bike race in Minnesota, races through the neighborhood around 48th Street and Chicago Avenue.

The Southside Sprint criterium will include nine individual race categories, the popular Family Dental Clinic Dash Kids Fun Race and the Twin Six Family Fun Zone. Racing starts at 8 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. A beginners' clinic at 7 a.m. will give new riders the chance to learn to race before starting the Bikes & Pieces Beginners Race.

New activities will add to the family fun in 2015. The Kids Activity Area gives kids a chance to make art with their race numbers and have their faces painted. The Athletes' Village brings racers and their team tents right into the middle of the action. Fans can get up close and personal with their favorite racers as they prepare for their state championship pursuits.

One of most popular spectator events in south Minneapolis, the 2014 Southside Sprint was the largest amateur road bicycle race in Minnesota for the third consecutive year. Nearly



Photo: Nomad Marketing

Hundreds of spectators watch the drama of speeding bicyclists soar through our neighborhood.

300 racers will showcase the speed and skill of Minnesota bike racing in front of 500+ spectators in the 2015 race. More information about the Southside Sprint is available at [www.southsidesprint.com](http://www.southsidesprint.com) ❖

## Hiawatha Academies to begin construction

On Monday, April 6, Hiawatha Academies began construction of a new school building on the south side of the 46th Street & 17th Avenue block. Last year, this network of charter schools renovated and added an addition to the old Northrop School building to open its newest elementary school: Hiawatha Leadership Academy – Northrop. The new school building will initially serve Hiawatha Collegiate High School students before becoming a middle school: Hiawatha College Prep – Northrop in the 2018-19 academic year.

Construction is scheduled to take place this year from April 6-Dec. 18. Architectural 3-D renderings and more project details can be found at [www.hiawathaacademies.org](http://www.hiawathaacademies.org) ❖



*In our neighborhood*

## Annual Car Show Scheduled for June 7



The South Chicago Avenue Business Alliance (SCABA) will hold its 6th-Annual Classic Car Show on Sunday, June 7, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the intersection of 48th Street and Chicago Avenue. The car show will feature a wide variety of classic cars and trucks from the 1940s through the 1980s—and even some cars older than that! **Admission is free!** Everyone is invited to stop by and “stroll through the past” while dreaming about the cars from yesteryear!

Street Kings Car Club of Minneapolis-St. Paul will again co-host the car show. “Last year’s car show was our best car show ever in terms of the number of cars that participated,” stated Mike Kmiecik, president of SCABA. “We had some cars displayed on Chicago Avenue for the first time, instead of just having cars on 48th Street on the east and west sides of Chicago Avenue. We like being able to spread out the car show, if we can. Hopefully, this year we’ll be able to spread it out even more.”



The car show is open to anyone who wants to exhibit their classic cars or trucks. The show will also feature a “bounce house” for kids as well as a D.J. who will be spinning classic ’50s–’80s tunes, plus a beer garden operated by Adrian’s Tavern. The “paint car” will be available again this year for the kids to turn into a “work of art” – for free! Of course, all of that will be in addition to the great restaurants and other businesses around the 48th and Chicago intersection that will be open that day.

There is a small registration fee for each vehicle participating in the show: \$10 for pre-registered vehicles; \$20 for day-of-show registrations. Anyone interested in entering the car show should check out SCABA’s website at [www.48chicago.org](http://www.48chicago.org) for more information. ❖

## McRae Park Summer Schedule Highlights

- May 20 Bike Rodeo 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- May 30 50th Anniversary of the Annual Neighborhood Summer Celebration, 11 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- June 8 Summer classes begin
- June 8-Aug. 21 Free summer lunches from noon – 1 p.m., and free summer snacks 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- June 18-20 Green Machine Football Camp featuring Derreck Robinson 9 a.m. – noon
- June 22-26 McRae Park/Challenger Sports British Soccer Camp 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- June 24 “Paws @ The Park” and “Movie in the Park” showing the *The Goonies* 6:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.

For more information on these events and all activities, please contact McRae Park at 612-370-4909, [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org), or stop on in the park for a chat! ❖



# 8th-Ward Update

Council Member Elizabeth Glidden



Council Member Elizabeth Glidden

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on city and neighborhood issues.

I want to give you an update on three workplace policies that I will be working to develop with other council members and the mayor’s office, specifically policies to promote fairer scheduling, more paid sick time for workers, and prevention of wage theft. Mayor Hodges talked about these policies in her recent State of the City speech as a “Working Families Agenda.” In a *Star Tribune* editorial published April 3, the day after her speech, the editorial board made positive mention of these initiatives.

These policies will be developed in partnership with labor, workplace advocates, our engaged business community, and other stakeholders. As well, we have many employers that today already utilize best practices around sick time and fair scheduling; their practices can help guide our work together in Minneapolis. Below is a brief outline of what these policies would address.

## Fair scheduling

Making sure that hourly employees know when their shifts are scheduled with enough time to plan, and making sure that if shifts are cancelled at the last minute, those employees are compensated.

## Wage Theft

When an employee works their hours, they should get paid for those hours. When an employee works overtime, that employee should get paid overtime. If employees are not fairly paid, our expectation must be that the employer be held accountable for those dollars that are, for all intents and purposes, stolen from the pockets of the people who work for them. The city can add to the toolbox of enforcement that already exists for wage theft.

## Earned Sick and Safe Time

Every year in the United States, workplaces lose \$250 billion in productivity – but 72% of that amount, or \$180 billion, is because people come to work sick instead of staying home. And research shows that on average, one sick employee on the job will create one more sick employee. In Minneapolis, 42% of workers lack access to earned sick and safe time. And once again, racial disparities are at work. For example, 63% of white workers have earned sick and safe time, while only 32% of Latino workers do. The lack of earned sick time is also a public-health crisis: a report this week from the Minnesota Department of Health shows that 79% of workers in the food-service sector in Minnesota lack paid sick time, and shows that 3,000 cases of food-borne illnesses in a decade were traced to sick food-service workers. Cities and states that have enacted earned sick and safe time have found that it has a positive effect on business profitability, reputation, and employee morale; that jobs have grown in the sectors where it has been applied; and that there has been little to no effect on costs.

As a Board of Public Health, Minneapolis has particular interest in policies that promote the health and welfare of all residents – shown by our city’s action to ban smoking in indoor and public spaces, leading the way to a

state-wide ban. Promoting earned sick and safe time and fair scheduling have an important connection to our health and productivity as workers and employers.

I look forward to engaging with you as we work to develop these important policies. I invite you to contact me at 612-673-2208 or [elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:elizabeth.glidden@minneapolismn.gov). Also, I host community office hours every Monday from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. at Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th St., at a table in the first-floor hall closest to the parking lot. Please just drop by or call our office for a time-certain appointment.

Elizabeth Glidden  
Council Vice President, City of Minneapolis

## Pop quiz

# Parking Puzzler

### Distances to park from:

1. a stop sign
2. an intersection
3. a fire hydrant
4. a driveway
5. an alley

Maximum amount of time to park without moving?



1. stop sign: 30 feet
2. intersection: 20 feet
3. fire hydrant: 10 feet
4. driveway: at least 5 feet
5. alley: at least 5 feet

72 hours (3 days)

Answers



# Business Beat

Four questions with Maggie, Judy and Kate

## Conversing With the Sisters Sludge

by Adam Webster

### What can you tell us about this location? What's changed in the years since Sisters' Sludge opened?

When we opened here in 1997, there was a deserted gas station on one corner and drug dealing on another. We observed a lot of action on the corner, but kept a record of it for our neighborhood safety officer and, in short order, the drug dealing moved on. We weren't alone at 46th and Bloomington, either. Nokomis Cycle had been here for two years, as had the beauty salon that is now known as Salon 41. Now this is a vibrant corner, with a dry cleaner, tattoo parlor and design establishments that meet many neighborhood needs.

### Tell us about your regulars. What sort of folks frequent Sisters' Sludge?

Our customers are our neighbors. Some come here to work, but many come to talk. Our philosophy is that 80% of our job is to listen. We may be a business, but we think of ourselves first as neighbors. Yes, our coffee is good (exceptional, in fact!), but it's made better because our three master roasters are all local, and the coffee is fair trade and almost entirely organic. The culture of Sisters' Sludge is one of family. New customers enter our doors for the coffee, but they come back for the conversation.



Photo: Sisters' Sludge

The Sisters Sludge: Maggie, Judy and Kate

### What makes your drinks different? What do you want people know about your coffee in particular?

Lattés and mochas are most popular in any coffeehouse. Ours stand above others because of how we use our espresso, from Alakef Coffee in Duluth. Unlike most coffeehouses, we use one-ounce shots (instead of the usual two ounces), and rely on Alakef's rich, caramel-smoky flavor and sweet finish to deliver the taste of espressos in Italy. We also add our own blend of milk chocolate to mochas and turtles. They're delicious!

### Do you live in the area? What are your favorite south Minneapolis locales?

One sister lives in Minneapolis, but we're all here almost every day! Favorite area hot spots would have to include Mel-O-Glaze Bakery (4800 28th Avenue S.) and The Lowbrow (4244 Nicollet Avenue S.). ❖

Sisters' Sludge Coffee Café  
4557 Bloomington Avenue  
612-722-3933

## Schedule your energy evaluation

Have you had your home's insulation and energy use tested yet? Summer is a convenient time to have this done. \$30 energy evaluations are still available through the Home Energy Squad. The Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit includes a blower-door test using an infrared camera to determine your home's insulation and air sealing potential. If the team determines your home needs

insulation or air sealing work completed, you will receive a quote and have the option to schedule work with approved contractors who will honor that quote. Or you can complete the work yourself.

In addition, the crew will perform a safety check of your home's heating system and water heater, and install energy-saving materials that may include door weather

stripping, compact fluorescent light bulbs, high-efficiency showerheads, faucet aerators, a programmable thermostat, and more.

For more information or to schedule your Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit, call 612-335-5874 or check out [mncee.org/hes-mpls/](http://mncee.org/hes-mpls/) ❖

## Activities

# Plans and Renovation for Area Parks

by Steffanie Musich, Commissioner,  
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has begun planning to redo several indoor and outdoor spaces so that they are able to be sustainably maintained with our available funds.

The key planning efforts began with Activity Plans (Court Sports, Urban Agriculture, Skate Parks, etc.) that feed into planning outdoor spaces through the South Service Area Master Plan for neighborhood parks in SE Minneapolis (in progress), the Nokomis-Hiawatha Master Plan (approved), and the Bossen Field Master Plan. At the same time, we have kicked off RecQuest to gain a better understanding of how our recreation centers and programming meet the needs and desires of the public.

Throughout the summer and fall, Park Board outreach staff will be requesting feedback online, hosting community meetings and have a presence at festivals, farmers markets and parks collecting input from residents about what they want to be able to do in the parks and what infrastructure is needed to support those activities indoors and out. Community feedback will heavily influence current planning efforts and provide a better picture of what our next few decades of investment needs entail.

While these big-picture planning efforts are underway, some previously scheduled construction will be taking place within the district.

Beginning in April, the Three Rivers Park District is extending the InterCity Regional Trail from the Grand Rounds at the south end of Lake Nokomis to Richfield. When complete, the off-street trail will connect cyclists in Minneapolis to Bloomington via one continuous trail.

This summer, the Main Beach at Nokomis is expanding north with an additional lifeguard stand and a new ramp to the firm sand along the shore that's being installed for greater accessibility. In addition, the "Triangle Park" playground within Nokomis-Hiawatha Regional Park at East 54th Street and Bloomington Avenue is being replaced. Construction within the park for these projects is anticipated to be complete by fall.

In July, the McRae athletic fields will be closed for renovation. This project has been a long time coming. Thank you all for your patience! The fields are being regraded to allow for adequate runoff (goodbye, mud puddles!) and reseeded. In addition, an irrigation system is being installed along with a new drinking fountain to ensure that turf, players and park visitors are able to stay hydrated. Construction and field establishment are anticipated to take approximately a year, with field use resuming in the late



Steffanie Musich, Commissioner, 5th Park District, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

summer/fall of 2016. While this project is underway, McRae teams are being relocated to other nearby athletic fields for practices and games.

To help keep residents of the 5th Park District up to date on initiatives, events, planning efforts and the construction projects we've been able to fund, I send out a newsletter by email a few times a month. Residents can read archived copies and subscribe to receive future emails at [http://eepurl.com/QZ\\_-9](http://eepurl.com/QZ_-9) ❖

## ..... Planning September 20 Garden + Art Crawl

The Parkway Artists Coalition (PAC) is planning a Garden+Art Crawl in the Field Regina and Northrop neighborhoods for Saturday, September 20. Participating gardeners (and their gardens) will be paired with visual artists and musicians, poets, performance artists, and others.

If you're a gardener or an artist who would like to be part of the Parkway Artists Coalition's first Garden+Art Crawl, please email FRNNG program manager, Stearline Rucker, at [frnng@frnng.org](mailto:frnng@frnng.org) by Monday, June 1.

Parkway Artists Coalition is a group of artists dedicated to advancing arts-based opportunities, supporting the

artist community, and fostering greater engagement with the community.

To learn more about PAC, go online to these sources:  
[facebook.com/ParkwayArtists](https://www.facebook.com/ParkwayArtists)  
[www.parkwayartists.blogspot.com](http://www.parkwayartists.blogspot.com)



Logo design: Sarah Golden

# News

## Request a FRNNG lawn sign today

by Ben Elliot

We plan to deliver FRNNG lawn signs again! Get your requests in early – first come, first served. Consider how you could best support this initiative: volunteer to deliver signs, display the FRNNG sign in your own lawn or garden and perhaps make a financial donation. Any financial donation you choose to provide FRNNG allows our neighborhood to have flexible funds to react more quickly to neighborhood priorities – such as graffiti prevention and other beautification initiatives.

If you already have a sign, perhaps the wind and snow has made the metal stand a bit misshapen. Contact us at the link below and indicate that you need a new stand! We will replace your old stand with a new and improved stand. Request a FRNNG lawn sign today at [www.frnng.org/lawn-signs](http://www.frnng.org/lawn-signs) Thanks for making our neighborhood the vibrant place it is!



## Nokomis Healthy Seniors (NHS)

### Weekly Events

#### MONDAYS

10–10:45 a.m. Exercise at Faith Church

#### TUESDAYS

10–10:45 a.m. Exercise at Bethel Church

#### WEDNESDAYS

10 a.m. Women's Art Group at Bethel

10–11 a.m. Yoga at Bethel Church

Pedicures at Nokomis Square (call for appointment)

#### THURSDAYS

9:30–11:30 a.m. Nurse is In at Bethel Church

10–10:45 a.m. Exercise at Bethel Church

11–11:30 a.m. Chair Exercise at Bethel Church

Annual NHS Clean-A-Thon, Saturday, May 16th. Are you ready to form a Clean Team? Or sponsor a team? Call the Nokomis Healthy Seniors office to join the fun! 612-729-5499

## FIELD REGINA NORTHROP



## FRNNG Meeting Information

### Full Board

3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church (LNPC) 17th Avenue and East 46th St. The full board does not meet in July or December.

### Business Committee | [business@frnng.org](mailto:business@frnng.org)

1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Sovereign Grounds, 48th and Chicago

### Community and Safety Committee | [communityandsafety@frnng.org](mailto:communityandsafety@frnng.org)

4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., McRae Park Rec. Center

### Housing Committee | [housing@frnng.org](mailto:housing@frnng.org)

1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m., Town Hall Tap, 48th & Chicago

### Education Committee | [education@frnng.org](mailto:education@frnng.org)

1st Thursday of each month beginning in October, at 6:30 p.m., LNPC

### Parks Committee | [parks@frnng.org](mailto:parks@frnng.org)

1st Monday of each month at 7 p.m., McRae Park Rec. Center

### Greening Committee | [greening@frnng.org](mailto:greening@frnng.org)

2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Turtle Bread Company, 48th and Chicago

### Communications Committee | [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org)

2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Sovereign Grounds, 48th and Chicago

## Support the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

Help keep FRNNG working for you by sending in a donation of \$15 or more. Combined with the business and church donations, your gift supports *Close to Home* and other activities of the organization. FRNNG is a 501.3c organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

### FRNNG VOLUNTARY DONATION

\$15    \$25    \$50    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Make your check payable to FRNNG, Inc., and mail this form and your check to FRNNG, Inc., 1620 East 46th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407*



*Close to Home* is written for neighbors by neighbors.  
The next deadline is Friday, June 5.  
Please email articles & images to: [communications@frnng.org](mailto:communications@frnng.org)

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50th-Anniversary Celebration

*Inside this issue*

Join FRN on Facebook and Twitter to get updates about the neighborhood more than once every two months! The most popular post since the last issue, with more than 100 likes, was about the iconic bunny sculpture located near Portland Avenue and Minnehaha Parkway getting a cleaning after being hit with graffiti. Find out what's happening at: [www.facebook.com/FRNNG](http://www.facebook.com/FRNNG) or [www.twitter.com/FRNNG](http://www.twitter.com/FRNNG)

